February

2000

ssued April 2000

C25/00-2

New One-Family Houses Sold and For Sale and Months' Supply at Current Sales Rate

New One-Family Houses Sold

Seasonally adjusted

Houses Sold

Thousands



Houses For Sale Thousands 425 400 375 350 325 300 275 250 225 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000

Number of Months' Supply¹



¹Ratio of houses for sale to houses sold at current sales rate. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, New One-Family Houses Sold.

Questions regarding these data may be directed to **Dale R. Jacobson**, Residential Construction Branch, Manufacturing and Construction Division, telephone: 301-457-1321.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Current Construction Reports

NEW HOUSES SOLD AND FOR SALE IN FEBRUARY 2000

This report provides statistics for new privately owned one-family houses sold and for sale. The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development jointly release this report.

Sales of new one-family houses in February 2000 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 919,000 compared with the revised January rate of 924,000. The February 1999 rate was 893,000.

The median sales price of new houses sold in February 2000 was \$162,000; the mean sales price was \$202,500. Changes in median and average sales prices reflect changing proportions of houses with different locations, sizes, etc., as well as changes in the prices of houses with identical characteristics. For a measure of the change in the sales price of new houses sold which are the same with respect to important characteristics, refer to the price index found in Tables 6a through 8 of the January 2000 report. Table 6 in that report shows the Fisher Ideal chaintype annual-weighted price index which does not hold any characteristics constant. For a description of these indexes, see the appendix in the March 1997 issue of this report.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of February was 311,000. This represents a supply of 4.1 months at the current sales rate.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics in this report are estimated from sample surveys and are subject to sampling variability as well as errors of response and nonreporting. Estimated average relative standard errors for preliminary statistics for houses sold and for sale are shown in the tables. For monthly estimates they are based upon the latest 6-month period ending June or December (January-June or July-December). Quarterly estimates are based upon the more recent of the first 2 quarters or last 2 quarters of the most current year, annual estimates on the last 2 years.

For month-to-month comparisons of total houses sold, the range of the 90-percent confidence interval is ± 9 percentage points from the estimated change. When the range of the confidence interval contains zero, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease; that is, the change is not statistically significant.

In interpreting changes in the statistics in this report, note that month-to-month changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show movements which may be irregular. It takes 4 months to establish an underlying trend for new houses sold. Preliminary estimates of new houses sold are subject to revision due to the survey methodology and definitions used. The survey is based primarily on a sample of houses selected from building permits. Since a "sale" is defined as a deposit being accepted or a sales contract signed, the sale can occur prior to the permit being issued. An estimate of these prior sales is included in the sales figure. On average, the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimate of total sales is revised ±3 percent. This does not include the revisions made when new seasonal factors are computed.

HUD-coded manufactured homes are not included in these statistics. Data for these homes can be found on the internet at:

www.census.gov/const/www/index.html

For further information about these data, contact the Construction Expenditures Branch, Manufacturing and Construction Division. Telephone: 301-457-1605.

Historical statistics on new one-family houses sold and for sale from 1963 to date are available from the Residential Construction Branch, Manufacturing and Construction Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233-6900. Telephone: 301-457-1321.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Current Construction Reports, *Characteristics of New Housing:* 1998, C25/98-A, U. S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20233-6900.

Table 1. Houses Sold and For Sale and Months' Supply at Current Sales Rate

	Not	seasonally adjus	sted	Seasonally adjusted					
Period	Number of thous		Months' supply at	Number of (thous		Months' supply at			
	Sold during For sale at period end of period		current sales rate ¹	Sold during period ²	For sale at end of period	current sales rate ¹			
ANNUAL DATA									
1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 ^r	650 534 509 610 666 670 667 757 804 886 907	366 321 284 267 295 340 374 326 287 300 326	(X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)	\$	(X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)	(X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)			
MONTHLY DATA									
1997: January February March. April May June	61 69 81 70 71 71	309 296 284 289 286 288	5.1 4.3 3.5 4.1 4.0 4.0	830 801 831 744 760 793	308 301 288 290 287 288	4.7 4.5 4.1 4.7 4.6 4.4			
July August September October November December	69 72 67 62 61 51	289 284 285 287 281 287	4.2 4.0 4.3 4.6 4.6 5.7	805 815 840 800 864 793	289 287 284 284 281 281	4.4 4.3 4.2 4.3 3.9 4.4			
1998: January February March April May June	64 75 81 82 82 83	282 277 281 286 284 287	4.4 3.7 3.5 3.5 3.5 3.4	872 866 836 866 887 923	282 281 284 287 287 286	4.0 3.9 4.1 4.0 3.9 3.8			
July. August. September October November December	75 75 68 69 70 61	284 283 291 296 292 300	3.8 3.8 4.3 4.2 4.9	876 846 864 893 995 949	285 286 289 293 292 294	4.0 4.1 4.1 4.0 3.5 3.8			
1999: January February March. April May June	67 78 86 88 83 86	294 291 296 299 302 307	4.4 3.7 3.4 3.4 3.6 3.6	918 893 881 930 896 948	295 296 298 301 305 305	4.0 3.9 4.1 3.9 4.1 4.0			
July. August. September October November ^r December ^r	80 81 67 69 63 59	305 305 313 316 319 326	3.8 3.8 4.7 4.6 5.1 5.6	936 914 848 906 895 921	306 307 311 314 317 320	4.0 4.1 4.5 4.2 4.3 4.3			
2000: January ^r	69	322	4.7	924	323	4.2			
February AVERAGE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS	81	317	3.9	919	311	4.1			
Annual(percent) Monthly(percent)	2 4	3 3	(X) 5	(X) 4	(X) 3	(X) 5			

Preliminary. rRevised. X Not applicable.

¹Ratio of houses for sale to houses sold. ²Annual rate.

Table 2. Houses Sold and For Sale by Region

[Thousands of houses. Components may not add to total because of rounding]

		Sold during period											of period adjusted)		
Period		Not seas	sonally a	adjusted		Sea	asonally a	adjusted	annual r	ate					
	United States	North- east	Mid- west	South	West	United States	North- east	Mid- west	South	West	United States	North- east	Mid- west	South	West
ANNUAL DATA															
1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998	650 534 509 610 666 670 667 757 804 886 907	86 71 57 65 60 61 55 74 78 81 75	102 89 93 116 123 125 137 140 164 173	260 225 215 259 295 295 300 337 363 398 409	202 149 144 170 188 191 187 209 223 243 250	(X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)	(X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)	(X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)	(X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)	(X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X) (X)	366 321 284 267 295 340 374 326 287 300 326	108 77 62 48 53 55 62 38 26 28	41 42 41 41 48 63 69 67 63 63 67	123 105 97 104 121 140 158 146 127 142 158	93 97 83 74 73 82 86 74 69 68 73
MONTHLY DATA															
1997: January	61 69 81 70 71	7 9 8 8 8 8 7	9 10 13 14 13 15	29 33 36 30 31 31	15 18 24 19 18 19	830 801 831 744 760 793	107 96 91 83 83 71	148 119 125 134 137 157	377 382 375 325 342 352	197 204 240 202 198 213	309 296 284 289 286 288	34 30 28 28 26 27	65 63 65 64 62	137 132 126 129 127 129	73 71 67 67 68 69
July	69 72 67 62 61 51	6 7 6 5 6 5	13 12 10 11 12 9	30 34 31 28 27 24	21 19 20 18 16 13	805 815 840 800 864 793	66 73 71 72 85 76	152 138 129 133 166 157	344 383 388 368 386 354	243 221 252 227 227 205	289 284 285 287 281 287	28 28 27 27 26 26	63 62 65 66 64 65	130 127 125 126 124 127	68 68 68 67 69
1998: January February March April May	64 75 81 82 82	5 8 8 8 9	10 15 18 16 14	32 30 34 37 34	17 22 21 22 25 21	872 866 836 866 887	73 90 87 87 95	166 187 178 151 147	413 348 354 401 374	220 241 217 226 270	282 277 281 286 284	27 25 24 24 23	62 61 59 61 61	126 128 132 133 134	67 63 67 68 65
June July August 75	83 75 7	8 6 13	17 13 34	39 35 21	923 20 846	82 876 77	173 72 149	433 160 378	235 408 243	287 237 283	23 284 23	63 23 60	134 61 131	68 130 69	70
September October November December	68 69 70 61	7 6 7 5	13 13 12 11	30 31 31 29	18 20 20 15	864 893 995 949	78 77 95 76	175 159 161 186	382 399 447 434	228 258 292 252	291 296 292 300	24 25 25 28	61 137 64 62 63	69 138 137 142	69 67 68
1999: January	67 78 86 88 83 86	5 7 6 7 6 6	10 14 16 17 17	32 38 38 38 38 39	20 19 26 25 22 24	918 893 881 930 896 948	78 78 74 80 71 68	166 173 154 173 173 172	415 433 390 411 417 437	258 210 263 266 236 272	294 291 296 299 302 307	27 24 25 25 25 25 26	61 60 60 59 60 60	140 141 145 148 149 150	66 66 67 67 68 71
July	80 81 67 69 63 59	7 8 6 5 5 6	15 16 12 15 13 8	37 34 30 29 28 28	21 22 18 20 17 16	936 914 848 906 895 921	84 89 77 71 64 86	174 190 153 198 184 150	430 385 381 385 396 426	248 249 237 253 251 259	305 305 313 316 319 326	26 26 25 26 28 28	61 62 62 64 65 67	147 148 153 155 155 158	72 70 72 70 70 73
2000: January ^r February ^p	69 81	6 8	9 15	34 38	21 21	924 919	85 86	147 170	430 429	262 234	322 317	27 25	66 66	158 158	70 68
AVERAGE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS			.5					3	3				33	.55	
Annual (percent) Monthly (percent)	2 4	6 19	7 12	3 6	4 7	(X) 4	(X) 19	(X) 12	(X) 6	(X) 7	3 3	10 11	6 7	4 5	6 4

Preliminary. 'Revised.

X Not applicable.

Table 3. Houses Sold and For Sale by Stage of Construction

[Thousands of houses. Components may not add to total because of rounding]

		Sold duri	ng period			For sale at e	end of period	
Period	Total	Completed	Under construc- tion	Not started	Total	Completed	Under construc- tion	Not started
ANNUAL DATA								
1989. 1990. 1991. 1992. 1993. 1994. 1995. 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999'	650 534 509 610 666 670 667 757 804 886 907	215 193 184 196 198 220 238 275 236 228 215	263 199 172 211 225 230 223 254 295 334 368	172 142 154 202 243 220 205 228 273 324 325	366 321 284 267 295 340 374 326 287 300 326	109 119 104 86 83 108 123 101 92 72 84	188 145 130 135 166 189 199 185 161 185 200	69 57 51 46 47 42 52 40 34 43
MONTHLY DATA								
1997: January February March April May June	61 69 81 70 71	22 23 25 21 23 19	20 23 29 24 24 30	19 23 27 26 24 22	309 296 284 289 286 288	97 95 91 91 90 89	174 165 158 165 163 163	38 37 35 33 33 36
July August September October November December	69 72 67 62 61 51	20 19 18 18 18	26 28 26 24 24 17	22 25 22 20 19 19	289 284 285 287 281 287	88 87 90 91 92 92	165 163 164 163 158 161	36 34 31 33 31 34
1998: January February March April May June	64 75 81 82 82 83	18 19 20 20 17 21	22 26 30 31 34 31	25 30 31 31 31 31	282 277 281 286 284 287	86 85 81 80 81 77	161 157 164 168 166 173	35 35 36 38 37 37
July August September October November December	75 75 68 69 70 61	21 19 18 19 20 17	30 32 26 27 26 23	24 25 25 23 23 21	284 283 291 296 292 300	75 74 75 76 73 72	171 172 177 181 185 185	39 37 39 39 34 43
1999: January	67 78 86 88 83 86	14 19 19 18 19 21	27 29 35 36 34 34	26 30 31 34 30 31	294 291 296 299 302 307	72 70 71 73 76 76	182 182 187 183 186 181	39 39 38 44 40 50
July August September October November ^r December ^r	80 81 67 69 63 59	20 21 16 18 14 16	32 32 28 31 27 24	28 28 23 20 22 19	305 305 313 316 319 326	73 71 76 76 81 84	183 188 191 197 199 200	49 46 46 43 39 42
2000: January ^r	69 81	17 23	29 33	24 26	322 317	87 84	193 186	42 48
AVERAGE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS								
Annual (percent). Monthly (percent).	2 4	4 7	3 5	5 11	3 3	4 5	3 3	6 5

Preliminary. Revised.

Table 4. Houses Sold by Sales Price

[Thousands of houses. Components may not add to total because of rounding. Percents computed from unrounded figures]

				Number	of houses ¹					Percent d	istribution ²	2		Median	Average
Period	Total	Under \$80,000	to	\$100,000 to \$119,999	to	to	\$200,000 and over	Under \$80,000	\$80,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$119,999	to	\$150,000 to \$199,999	\$200,000 and over	sales price (dollars)	sales price (dollars)
ANNUAL DATA															
1995 1996 1997 1998	667 757 804 886 907	58 59 51 41 33	101 104 93 91 72	99 101 103 112 100	144 159 173 183 190	127 160 177 208 214	138 175 207 251 298	9 8 6 5 4	15 14 12 10 8	15 13 13 13 11	22 21 21 21 21	19 21 22 23 24	21 23 26 28 33	133,900 140,000 146,000 152,500 160,000	158,700 166,400 176,200 181,900 195,700
MONTHLY DATA															
1998: January	64 75 81 82 82 83	3 3 4 4 5	8 8 8 9 9	9 11 10 11 11 10	13 13 17 19 15 18	14 18 20 18 20 19	17 23 22 22 23 21	4 4 4 5 5 6	12 10 10 11 11 11	14 15 12 13 13 12	21 17 21 23 19 22	22 23 25 22 24 22	27 31 27 26 28 26	148,000 156,000 152,700 148,000 153,200 148,000	178,600 181,600 178,500 176,700 183,500 175,900
July August. September October November December	75 75 68 69 70 61	5 4 2 3 3 3	8 7 7 7 6 5	10 9 8 9 9 7	15 16 14 13 16 14	16 17 18 16 17	21 23 18 21 19 17	6 5 3 5 4 6	10 10 10 11 9 8	14 12 12 13 12 11	20 21 21 18 23 23	21 22 27 23 24 24	28 30 26 30 27 28	149,900 154,900 155,000 154,500 151,000 152,500	179,800 186,500 182,700 182,800 178,600 183,300
1999: January	67 78 86 88 83 86	3 3 3 2 3 3	7 6 8 10 7 6	7 10 11 9 10	15 17 18 18 19 18	17 17 21 21 18 20	18 26 26 28 26 28	4 4 3 3 4 4	11 7 9 11 8 7	11 13 13 11 13 12	23 21 21 20 23 21	25 21 24 23 21 23	27 33 30 32 31 33	152,500 159,900 155,000 160,000 154,800 158,300	182,800 191,400 189,400 191,400 188,200 193,400
July August. September October. November ^r December ^r	80 81 67 69 63 59	3 3 2 2 2 3 3	7 7 6 5 3 4	10 9 7 6 7 6	15 20 14 16 13	19 18 17 17 15 16	26 25 22 22 24 20	4 3 3 4 4 4	9 8 9 8 4 6	13 11 10 8 10	18 25 20 24 20 19	24 23 25 25 24 27	32 30 33 32 37 34	157,900 154,900 162,000 160,000 172,900 165,000	188,800 193,300 194,400 200,300 212,400 203,200
2000: January ^r	69 81	3 3	6 7	7 9	15 16	16 20	22 26	5 3	8 8	10 11	22 20	24 25	31 32	158,000 162,000	194,400 202,500
AVERAGE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS															
Annual (percent) Monthly (percent)	2 4	7 24	5 16	6 13	5 8	5 8	5 7	7 24	5 15	6 12	5 7	5 7	5 6	2 4	2 2

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

Note: The sales price includes the land.

¹Houses for which sales price was not reported have been distributed proportionally to those for which sales price was reported.

²Total equals 100 percent.

Table 5. Current Seasonal Factors

		Ne	w houses so	old				onths from t to—	
Month and year	United States implicit factor	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	New houses for sale	Months' supply at current sales rate	Sale	End of month
1999: November ^r	84.5 76.4	87.8 84.9	85.7 67.6	84.4 79.5	83.1 73.7	100.6 102.0	118.3 130.0	101.5 111.1	96.5 101.6
2000: January ^r		79.0 112.1	75.2 105.8	93.9 105.3	94.6 106.5	99.7 102.0	110.1 94.2	114.3 113.7	107.5 114.5

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

Note: These are the seasonal factors used to adjust the most current preliminary and revised estimates. The factors are produced by running each series through the X-12-ARIMA version seasonal adjustment program. For new houses sold, only the four regional series are run through this X-12-ARIMA program. The resulting seasonally adjusted estimates are then added to produce an estimate for the United States. The implicit factor is the result of dividing the unadjusted estimate by the seasonally adjusted estimate. It provides an indication of the overall seasonality for the particular month.

Table 6. Median Number of Months on Sales Market

[Houses not started are excluded. Medians computed from unrounded figures]

Houses sold,		s sold.	Н	ouses for sa	le		Houses	s sold.	Houses for sale			
Period _	measure month		Measured f	rom month	Measured from- month of	Period	measure month o		Measured f	Measured from- month of		
. 000	Not season- ally adjusted	Season- ally adjusted	Not season- ally adjusted	Season- ally adjusted	comple- tion (not season- ally adjusted)	comple- tion (not season- ally	Not season- ally adjusted	Season- ally adjusted	Not season- ally adjusted	Season- ally adjusted	comple- tion (not season- ally adjusted)	
ANNUAL DATA						April	3.9	3.8	4.5	4.3	5.9	
1989	4.3	(X)	6.5	(X)	5.5	May	2.7	2.8	4.2	4.1	5.5	
1990	4.5	(X)	7.8	(X)	5.7	June	3.2	3.5	3.8	4.1	5.3	
1991	4.4	(X)	6.8	(X)	6.9	luk	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.3	5.1	
1992	3.5	(X)	5.2	(X)	6.3	July	3.1	3.4	4.0	4.3	5.1	
1993	3.6	(X)	4.4	(X)	4.6	September	3.5	3.8	3.9	4.4	5.2	
1994	3.8	(X)	4.9	(X)	4.1	October	3.1	3.3	4.0	4.2	4.8	
1995	4.3	(X)	5.3	(X)	5.5	November	3.4	3.4	3.9	4.0	5.0	
1996	4.2	(X)	4.8	(X)	4.6	December	3.8	3.5	4.0	4.0	5.0	
1997	3.7	(X)	4.9	(X)	4.3	Booombor	0.0	0.0		1.0	0.0	
1998	3.5	(X)	4.0	(X)	5.0	1999						
1999 ^r	3.3	(X)	4.2	(X)	4.6	January	3.3	2.8	4.3	4.0	5.1	
MONTHLY DATA						February	4.0	3.6	4.4	4.0	5.1	
MONTHEI DATA						March	3.1	3.1	4.4	3.9	5.0	
1997						April	3.6	3.5	4.2	4.0	4.8	
January	4.8	4.2	5.1	4.8	4.9	May	2.9	3.1	3.8	3.8	4.2	
February	4.5	4.0	5.3	4.8	4.8	June	3.1	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.9	
March	3.9	3.9	5.4	4.9	4.8							
April	4.1	4.0	5.2	4.8	4.6	July	3.2	3.4	3.9	4.2	4.2	
May	3.8	4.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	August	3.2	3.6	3.7	4.1	4.4	
June	2.7	3.0	4.4	4.7	4.6	September	3.0	3.2	3.9	4.2	4.2	
	2.4	0.0	4.3	4.7	4.0	October	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.4	
July	3.4 3.1	3.6 3.4	4.3	4.7 4.8	4.6 4.2	November ^r	3.1	3.0	4.0	4.1	4.5	
August	3.1	3.4	4.4	4.8	4.2	December ^r	3.6	3.3	4.2	4.1	4.6	
October	3.4	3.5	4.4	4.7 4.7	4.2	2000						
November	3.4	3.7	4.4	4.7	3.9		_					
December	3.8	3.7	4.0	4.8	4.3	January ^r	3.7	3.2	4.5	4.2	4.8	
Doodiiibei	5.0	5.5	7.5	7.0	7.5	February ^p	4.0	3.5	4.8	4.2	5.3	
1998						AVERAGE RELATIVE						
January	4.3	3.7	5.1	4.8	4.9	STANDARD ERRORS						
February	4.2	3.7	5.3	4.8	5.3	Annual (percent)	3	(X)	5	(X)	7	
March	3.6	3.5	5.1	4.6	5.8	Monthly (percent)	11	11	6	6	13	
	-					, (1.1.1.1.1)			_			

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. X Not applicable.